

# To what extent would you say situation ethics essay



One strength is that it is an alternative Christian Ethic which is consistent with the Gospel. This means it goes directly with the teachings of Jesus' lesson of choosing love over the law. This shows that Jesus puts God and his faith above everything else even the law. Due to these Situation Ethics is seen as being consistent with the New Testament. Another strength is Situation Ethics being flexible and practical. This is due to the theory taking in account the problems of human life. This means that Situation Ethics can help people decide what is right or wrong to do whereas a legalistic point of view all actions would be wrong.

This means it can't unlock unsolvable moral issues and dilemmas. The situation ethics approach can take the best option from two bad situations. This is good because a legalist wouldn't be able to do this. An example of this in practice is if a murderer came to you and asked you where his next victim was, a legalist would be bound to tell the truth because the act of lying is wrong whereas the situationalist would be able to do the most loving thing in that particular circumstance. One weakness of Situation Ethics is that it's subjective.

This means that it isn't as valid because it relies on one person's perception of a certain situation. The main question which is raised is how can an individual decide which is the most loving action? This causes problems because we could do an unloving thing and justify it because we think it will cause a loving thing at the end, when really the loving thing will never happen. Situation Ethics could prove unworkable because it's hard to think and conclude all the consequences of a particular action. One other

weakness is that Situation Ethics is individualistic because everyone sees things from their own perspective.

An issue with this is people may pollute unconditional love with selfish human tendencies. Agape love would be an ideal but isn't realistic. An example is that parents wouldn't give the same amount of love to a stranger than their own children. One final weakness is that if it fits with the right criteria, it will accept anything. After mass killings murders and genocide being committed recently. It creates the problem of what people believe the most loving end could justify things what are really wrong. An example is Hitler and the Jews.

Hitler caused the execution of 6 million Jews for a better Germany. Hitler felt he was doing a loving thing for Germany and didn't think about the Jews. Even though genocide would always be considered as wrong. In conclusion Situation Ethics is a very useful ethical theory because it goes with Jesus' teachings of love being the most important thing and love being much more important than the law. Another good thing is that it is very flexible and considers the complexities of human life which other ethical theories do not consider such as a legalist.

Therefore you can choose the best of a bad situation and make it not as bad. On the other hand it does have many weaknesses with the main one being that it really does depend on the person who is making the decision and not actually what is best to do. For example a mad man may have different ideas of good compared to a priest. Also an atheist may have different views to a catholic. So it all depends on the person and as a person they can choose the

most loving thing or have a selfish human tendency and do something which would benefit them.